

New Awards

Two legacies of £10,000 each have been bequeathed by Miss Myra Verney. One is to fund an award in memory of her sister, a former Company Silver Medallist, to be known as the **Harriet Cohen Bach Prize**, for the most deserving pupil at the RAM in the field of Bach piano playing. The other is to be known as the **Myra Verney Recital Fund** to support a first public performance by a young British singer.

The Harry Mortimer Memorial Fund is establishing a silver medal in recognition of outstanding work teaching young people in the brass band movement. It will be known as the **Harry Mortimer Medal**.

Court Minutes 1912

'The Treasurer, Mr. J.C. Collard, raised a strong objection to the singing of 'He's a Jolly Good Fellow' at the Company's banquets as being an undignified and vulgar proceeding and asked that some means might be taken to prevent a repetition of such so-called 'musical honours'. After discussion it was decided that it should be left to the Clerk to intimate to the members of the Livery who had been in the habit of starting such 'musical honours' that the Court disapproved of the practice'.

Music from St. Michael's

The late Dr. Harold Darke was an Honorary Freeman of the Company. Over fifty years, he became a much-loved leader of music-making in the City as organist, conductor and composer. He gave more than 1,800 lunchtime organ recitals on Mondays at St. Michael's, Cornhill, during his time as Director of Music there (1916-1966), and he founded and conducted the St. Michael's Singers in many concerts, festivals, broadcasts and recordings. Both the recitals and the singers continue to this day.

It is appropriate, therefore, that the organ which Dr. Darke knew so well, and for which he composed most of his works has been used by Liveryman Jonathan Rennert, Darke's successor at St. Michael's, for a recording of Harold Darke's organ music (Priory Records, PRCD374). The compact disc is available to fellow Liverymen at the reduced price of £10.50 – a saving of £2 on the retail price. There will be a small charge of £1 to cover post and packing if applicable. Any profits will go to the St. Michael's Singers. For more information about the disc and recitals, please contact Jonathan Rennert at the St. Michael's Vestry, Cornhill, London EC3V 9DS.



St. Cecilia Festival Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, 23 November 1994. Photo: Philip Way.

St. Sepulchre's The Musicians' Church

It is with great sadness that our church is no longer in use. Its financial situation means it will be available only for special occasions. The future locations of the Book of Remembrance and the ashes of Sir Henry Wood, are still to be decided. Our representative on the Committee of Friends is Pastmaster Malcolm Hubble.

The Parish Clerk is Philip Chancellor, our Beadle, who has been associated with it for many years.

COMMITTEES

Following a recent decision it was decided that two Assistants and two Pastmasters should join the Master and Wardens Committee on an experimental basis for one year. They are Pastmasters Malcolm Hubble and Jeffery Lockett and Assistants Frank Fowler and Gavin Barrett.

The Investment Panel has been amalgamated with the Finance Committee which will consist of the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, and, ex officio, the Master and Wardens.

Pastmaster Tony Pool is joining the Gemini and Special Awards Committees.

Pastmaster John Iles has been invited to join the Maisie Lewis and Jazz Committees. The latter will also be joined by Keith Howell, who is currently in attendance, on being received into the Livery.

The Brass Band Committee, formerly the Iles Medal Committee, is being joined by Liveryman Bram Gay.

Mining the Archives

On an initiative of the Master, Liveryman Paul Campion has recently been appointed to survey the archives of the Company.

Part of this project is to examine and document those archives in the Company's care – books, pictures, manuscript music, photographs and letters etc; an even more challenging aspect is to ascertain what material relating to the history of the Company may be in the possession of Liverymen, perhaps considered worthless, but in fact possibly of real archival importance.

Any Liverymen who have historical, and even not so historical, material about the Company, or know of other sources, are asked to write to Paul Campion, c/o The Clerk's Office, but DO NOT send material at this stage. All correspondence will be acknowledged. Please remember, one man's rubbish is another man's archive!

Special Awards Committee

The Charles Santley Memorial Gift

It was agreed that the awards should be given to Richard Van Allan and Josephine Barstow.

Percival-Hart Fund

Donations were made to Clonter Opera, the National Opera Studio and the Manchester Mid-Day Concerts.

Walter Willson Cobbett Medal

This will be presented to Levon Chilingirian at the Celebration Concert in St. John's, Smith Square on 31 May (vis page 2).